

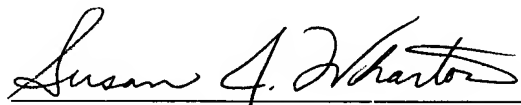
## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects claims 1-18 with traverse. Applicant has withdrawn claims 19-41 without prejudice.

The method of manufacturing a sponge device, as claimed in claims 1-18, cannot be used to make other and materially different products. Furthermore, the sponge device claimed in claims 19, 20, and 36-41 cannot be made by another and materially different process. The product cannot be made by securing an already cured sponge to the handle because an already cured sponge would not sufficiently adhere to the handle without cutting an opening for the handle in the sponge. A method of making a sponge device where cuts were made in the sponge would create "float away" and thus would not make the product of the present invention. For the foregoing reasons, inventions I and II are not distinct and therefore should be able to be prosecuted in the same application.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are patentable over references of record and are in condition for allowance and eventual issuance. Such action is respectfully requested. Should the examiner have any further questions or comments which need to be addressed in order to obtain allowance, please contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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